Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3380

INFO USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS ROME 10558

STATE FOR EUR/WE

PASS TO AMBASSADOR GARDNER

USICA FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOPN, IT

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR GARDNER: PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- 1. AMBASSADOR GARDNER'S MEETING WITH US CONGRESSMEN REPORTED BY MARINO DE MEDICI IN IL TEMPO (GARDNER: COMMUNIST VICTORY IN ITALY IS NO LONGER INEVITABLE. DE MEDICI SAYS AMBASSADOR GARDNER IS "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT ITALIAN SITUATION.
- 2. ARTICLE COVERS SEVERAL POINTS INCLUDING:
- --ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS: "DESTROYED THE MYTH OF THE INEVITABILITY OF COMMUNIST IN ITALY." ELECTION RESULTS DUE INPART TO POLITICAL "BACKLASH" AFTER MORO ASSASSINATION AND VOTER DISSATISFACTION WITH PCI ADMINISTRATION IN THE CITIES.
- --ITALIAN ECONOMY: DESPITE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS, REAL DANGER LIES IN THE GOI MAKING DECISIONS BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN "AS A RESPONSE TO PUBLIC OPINION."

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PAGE 02 ROME 10558 071654Z

- --DC: SHOW SIGNS OF HAVING UNDERTAKEN A PROCESS OF RENO-VATION AND RENEWAL. IF THEY SHOW THEMSELVES INCAPABLE OF MOVING FORWARD ON NEEDED NATIONAL REFORMS, THE SITUATION COULD REVERT TO THE STATE IT WAS IN 1976.
- --PCI: NOT THE KIND OF PARTY THAT COULD BE INCLUDED WITHOUT RISKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF A FREE WESTERN COUNTRY,

AND A MAJORITY OF ITALIANS SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT FACT. IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE PCI MIGHT BECOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC BUT IT HAS NOT YET DONE SO.

--FOREIGN POLICY: PCI SUPPORTS USSR ON 90 PERCENT OF ALL FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS. ORLOV CASE RECENT POSSIBLE EXCEPTION.

--EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ON CIA AID TO ITALY: THE COLUMN WAS "IN ERROR," THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT "RECEIVED WHAT IT HAD ASKED FOR."HOLMES

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